Project overview: You will conduct research on a contemporary trend and/or issue within middle/secondary education, analyze this issue, and publish your research findings on a collaborative wiki.

Project learning goals:

* To gain in-depth understanding of your chosen trend/issue.
* To gain experience (or extend your understanding of) conducting research using scholarly and “popular” sources.
* To disseminate your knowledge on your trend/issue to other “stakeholders.”
* To gain experience (or strengthen your abilities in) composing in a digital genre (i.e., the course wiki).

Project components and descriptions:

**Overview of Topic (500-1000 words).**  A succinct and clear description of your topic. This description may include (but is not limited to): common misconceptions regarding your topic, experts’ opinions on the topic, examples of your topic (taken from the media or scholarly sources), competing theories/ideas about your topic. This description should be professional in tone and language, written in third person, follow grammar/mechanics for Standard American English, and be free of bias or personal opinions.

**Trend or Issue? (500-1000 words).** A well organized and balanced rationale as to whether your topic is a trend, an issue, or both within middle/secondary education. Your claim should be clearly stated in the opening of this section and supported by evidence (e.g., statistics, quotes, paraphrases) from your sources.

**Annotated Bibliography**. An annotated bibliography (using APA citation) for six sources of relevance to your topic. Of these sources, at least two must be “scholarly” sources (e.g., peer-reviewed journal articles, publications from national organizations or scholars in the discipline). Other sources come from “popular” publications (e.g., blogs, newspaper articles, opinion columns, film, novels). If you use digital sources (e.g., blogs, websites), please be sure to link your source to your annotated bibliography on your wikipage.

**Optional: In My Opinion (length is up to your discretion).** An explanation of your personal (and/or professional) interest in your topic. In this section, you may describe an experience as a teacher or student you have had with your topic. Or, you might discuss your topic from your perspective as a parent, community member, or tax payer. This is your opportunity to “express yourself” (should you wish to complete this section).

**Wiki Grading Criteria:**The text you compose for the Topic Overview and Trend or Issue sections will be graded using the following rubric.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Writing Component** | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| **Section topic: clarity**  **X2** | Description of topic (or description of trend/issue) is clearly articulated in opening of section. | Description of t1opic (or description of trend/issue) is not clearly articulated or is not in opening of section. | Description of topic (or description of trend/issue) is unclear throughout section. |
| **Support for topic**  **X2** | Author provides multiple sources of evidence or data to support description of topic or trend/issue. | Author provides 1-2 sources of evidence or data to support description of topic or trend/issue | Author provides no sources of evidence or data. |
| **Organization** | Ideas flow logically; transitions are used between ideas. | Ideas do not flow logically or few transitions are used. | Ideas do not flow logically; no transitions are used. |
| **Language/tone** | Words and phrases are professional in tone; 3rd person objective tone used throughout. | Some words and phrases are professional and objective in tone. | Words and phrases are casual and convey a tone that is not objective and/or professional |
| **Mechanics** | Grammar, spelling, and mechanics consistent with SAE throughout. | A few grammatical, spelling, and/or mechanical issues inconsistent with SAE. | Grammatical, spelling, mechanical issues are numerous and distracting. |

**Process Points:** Participation in Peer Review: +2

Evidence of Revisoins: +2

**Total points: \_\_\_\_25**

**Annotated Bibliography:**Your annotated bibliography will be graded using the following rubric.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Bibliography Component** | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| **Completeness** | Six sources are cited. | 4-5 sources are cited. | 3 or fewer sources are cited. |
| **Sources**  **X2** | Author provides at least 2 scholarly sources and at least 2 “popular” sources. | Author provides 1-2 sources from each category. | Author provides sources from one category or viewpoint. |
| **Formatting** | Correct APA formatting is used throughout. | Some errors in APA formatting occur. | Multiple APA formatting errors occur. |
| **Annotation**  **X2** | Brief description of source’s relevance to the topic is written in clear, prose. | Description of source’s relevance to topic is not clearly stated or description is wordy. | Source’s relevance is completely unclear and/or description is incomplete/missing. |
| **Mechanics** | Grammar, spelling, and mechanics consistent with SAE throughout. | A few grammatical, spelling, and/or mechanical issues inconsistent with SAE. | Grammatical, spelling, mechanical issues are numerous and distracting. |

**Research points:** Sources provide a variety of viewpoints or perspectives on the topic (i.e., sources represent various “stakeholders” in topic). +4

**Total: \_\_\_/25 points**

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**Wiki Grade:** The wiki totals 100 points or 40% of your overall course grade. The distribution of points for each wiki component is displayed at right.

**Wiki Project Grade:**

* Overview: 25
* Trend or Issue? 25
* Annotated Bib: 25
* Wiki Style: 25

(rubric TBD)

Total: 100 points